

costume as revealed in manuscript illumination—Illuminating Fashion: Dress in the Art of Medieval France and the Netherlands opening at the Morgan Library & Museum in May; and at the end of the year, the British Library's exhibition of manuscripts from the Royal collection, opening in November. There are also a number of current exhibitions featuring Shahnama manuscripts, commemorating the thousand-year anniversary of the Persian Book of Kings.

room are in fact much the same in their physical aspects, apart from a few modifications in the Hall. Procedures for getting a reader's ticket and applying to look at manuscripts have changed to a great degree. Instead of a ticket, there is now a magnetic badge/card, which readers must carry with them at all times. This card is essential to: 1) open and close the lockers, which are assigned automatically; 2) enter and exit the Library; 3) request manuscripts and printed books through the computer; 4) go to the bar; 5) and something new: to take the elevator on the ground floor.

Scholars may request three manuscripts in the morning (between 8:45 and 12 noon) and two in the afternoon (between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m.). The Library closes at 5:15 p.m. The Reading Room has a wireless system for Internet connection; a user name and password are supplied when you register as a reader (she tried it out but it didn't work).

And that's the latest. If anyone has had a dif

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a visit to the newly opened Vatican Library,  
to comment on



## POSTINGS FROM READERS

## EXHIBITION AND CALL FOR PAPERS



King George II presented around 2000 manuscripts of the library to the newly founded British Museum. These manuscripts, collected by the kings and queens of England from the ninth to the sixteenth centuries, form the unique collection held by the British Library known simply as 'Royal.' The Royal collection preserves the medieval and Renaissance libraries of the kings and queens of England, and in

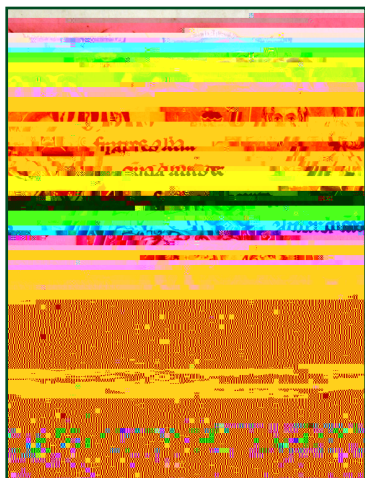
Scott Gwara informs us:

The University of South Carolina has acquired a manuscript breviary for its growing collection of medieval manuscripts: Sotheby's, 7 December 2010, lot 30. The university also received a small collection of fragments. All of the manuscripts will be available online in April, in the most recent update of [www.scmanuscripts.org](http://www.scmanuscripts.org).

With support from the Humanities Council of South Carolina, the University of South Carolina is sponsoring four seminars and two lectures on medieval manuscripts by Dr. Christopher de Hamel, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. Approximately 35 participants from all over the eastern US will use the university's collection of manuscripts from 4 to 5 April in this hands-on symposium. In the evening of 4 April Dr. de Hamel will lecture on the history of the medieval Bible, with special reference to the university's recently acquired "Breslauer Bible," an English pocket Bible, ca. 1240. On 5 April de Hamel will discuss the Book of Hours and the medieval imagination at the Columbia Museum of Art, focusing on their newly acquired Bruges Book of Hours.

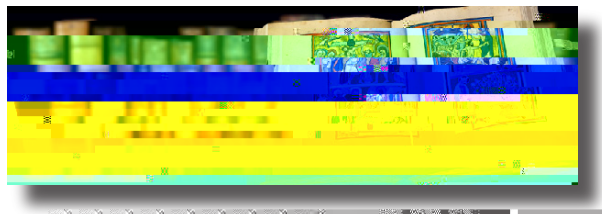
The University of South Carolina owns seven medieval codices and approximately 110 fragments. It has added thirty fragments and three codices in the past few years.

## Exhibitions (continued)



The exhibition «*Il libro illuminato*» was inaugurated on March 31, 2011, at 6 p.m., in the Oratory of Saint Rocco. Organized by the Biblioteca Universitaria of Padua in collaboration with the Comune of Padua, it features a group of medieval and Renaissance illuminated manuscripts in the collection

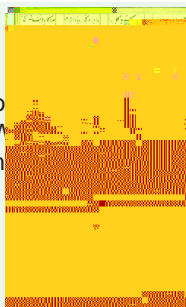
## Exhibition notes:



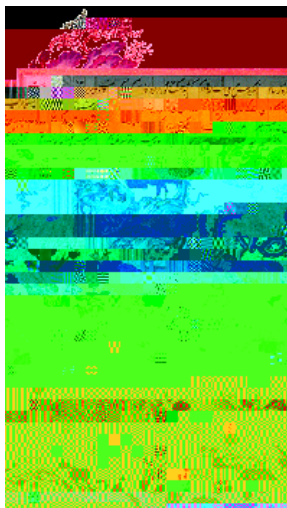


# Shahnamah Exhibitions 2011

Rustam in Combat with Isfandiyar, c. 1440s. Ink, opaque watercolor and gold on paper. H. 7 1/4 x W. 5 1/16 in. (H. 18.4 x W. 12.8 cm) Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland, MS. 239, 291b



The Asia Society Museum in New York City presents **A Prince's Manuscript Unbound: Muhammad Juki's 'Shahnamah'** February 9–May 1, 2011 See details at <http://asiasociety.org/arts-culture/asia-society-museum/current-exhibitions/princes-manuscript-unbound-muhammad-jukis-shahn>



18 March 2011 - 19 June 2011  
Museum of Islamic Art, Bodestraße 1-3, 10178 Berlin, Germany

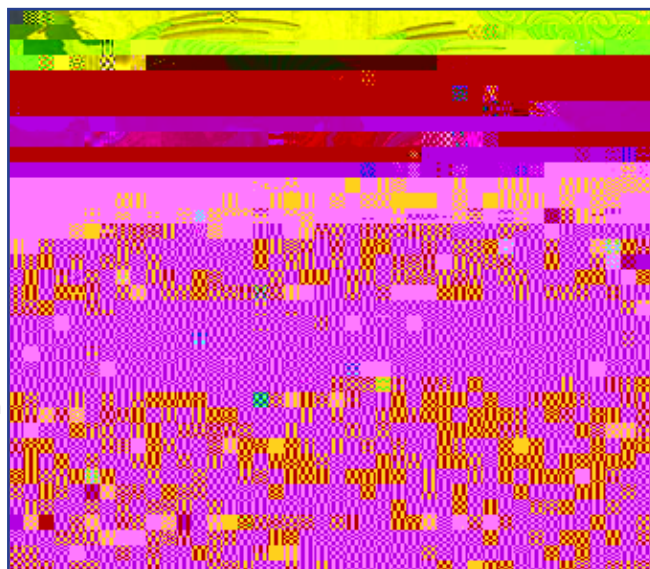
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Zal collecting his son Sam who was raised by the mythical bird Simurgh. Iran ca. 1530 Shahname of Shah Tahmasp, (Museum of Islamic Art, Berlin)

October 23, 2010–April 17, 2011  
Don't miss the last weeks of **Shahnama: 1000 Years of the Persian Book of Kings**, celebrating the millennium of the poet Firdawsi's Shahnama, in the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery at the Smithsonian Institution:  
1050 Independence Ave SW  
P.O. Box 37012, MRC 707  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7012

Detail, Zal is Sighted by a Caravan;  
Lent by the Art and History Collection  
LTS1995.2.46

Check out the exhibition website:  
<http://www.asia.si.edu/exhibitions/current/shahnama.asp>



## LECTURES

Thursday, April 7, 2011

The Metropolitan Museum of Art  
The Grace Rainey Rogers Auditorium

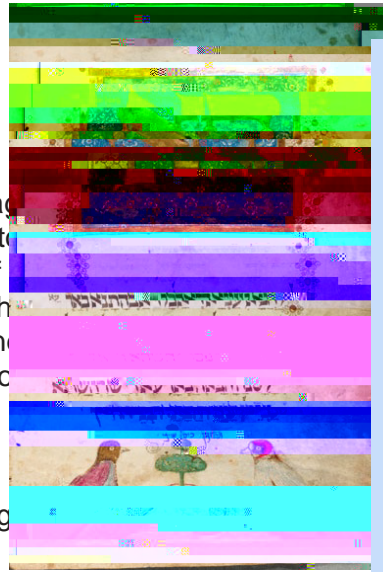
The Passover holiday comes to life in the pages of a world-renowned Haggadah, on loan to the Metropolitan Museum from the Library of Congress. Explore the place of this book in the history of Passover and late medieval art and hear the story of how this manuscript came to America.

2:00

Washington Haggadah: The Life of a Jewish Book—David Stern, Moritz and Josephine Berg Professor of Classical Hebrew Literature, University of Pennsylvania

2:45

Joel ben Simeon Illustrating the Washington Haggadah—Katrin Kogman-Appel, Evelyn Metz Memorial Research Chair in Art, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer Sheva, Israel.



Folio 3v, from the Washington Haggadah, Library of Congress, Hebraic Section. Reproduced by permission of the publisher from The Washington Haggadah, by Joel ben Simeon Cambridge, Mass.: Library of Congress and Harvard University Press, © 2011.

This lecture is held in conjunction with the exhibition series, **Sacred Splendor: Hebrew Manuscript Illumination in Context**, on view in the Medieval Galleries. Free with Museum admission; tickets and reservations not required.

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The Celtic Studies Association of North America is the professional organization for those who study the languages, literatures, folklore, archaeology, art, music and history of those peoples who have spoken a Celtic language from prehistory to the present, encompassing the cultures of Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Brittany and Cornwall, as well as the continental Celtic peoples of pre-Roman and Roman times. For nearly 35 years, CSANA has held an annual meeting that attracts scholars from around the world who present lectures that provide insight into our Celtic heritage. Ohio State University is hosting the 2011 CSANA annual meeting, which will take place from Thursday 19 May through Sunday 22-May. Plenary speakers for the conference include Professors Gearóid Ó Cruaíoch of University College Cork (Ireland), Peredur Lynch of the University of Bangor (Wales) and Michelle P. Brown of the University of London (England) Information and the program of the conference can be viewed on the web site of the



Illuminating Fashion:  
Dress in the Art of Medieval France and the Netherlands

of manuscripts from the Sistine Chapel held in Spanish collections. curated by Elena De Laurentiis. Its first venue was the Biblioteca Nacional de España, Madrid (closed 9th January), and is now showing at the Meadows Museum of Southern Methodist University, Dallas through April 23rd, 2011. It features around 40 manuscripts from the Sacristy of the Sistine Chapel in Vatican City and 26 other works (including single leaves, books and liturgical objects of Cardinal Francisco Antonio de Lorenzana), dating from the 11th to 18th centuries and loaned from three Spanish collections. The richly-illustrat

Virginia Brown Bequest to the Center for Epigraphical and Palaeographical Studies,  
 at the Ohio State University

In September, 2010 the Center for Epigraphical and Palaeographical Studies received a generous bequest from the estate of Professor Virginia Brown, who kindly left the Center her library and working papers. As most of you know, Virginia was a formidable scholar and editor, and a much cherished member of the profession. The Center is deeply indebted to her husband, the eminent historian James Hankins, for his many kindnesses in bringing this bequest to completion, and it is naturally honored to house Virginia's papers and library. This acquisition has increased immeasurably the Center's holdings in the fields of manuscript studies, classical reception, and the Beneventan script, which was Virginia's own area of expertise. You can read Frank Coulson's reminiscences of Virginia and find out more about the collection by visiting <http://cmrs.osu.edu/nn/pdfs/nn1101.pdf>, published by The Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies at the Ohio State University. The Center has a Virginia Brown Fellowship to encourage scholars to use the Center's collections. Information may be found at the web site for the Center [epigraphy.osu.edu](http://epigraphy.osu.edu)

The research associate in Cambridge will take primary responsibility for the collection of data relating to the southern axis of transmis